remunerative prices to the coconut growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a)and (b) The price of coconut has fallen in the year 1985 due to better crop during the current year, as compared to the unusually high price in 1984. Price in 1985 is, however, still higher than the yearly average prices in 1982 and 1983.

(c) The State Government has started procurement of copra through Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation and Kerala Coconut Development Corporation from 27th June, 1985 at a price higher than the ruling market price. It is proposed to continue copra procurement till the price of coconut is stabilized.

Misutilisation of Bank Funds meant for IRDP

1141. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank of India recently stated at a Bangalore seminar that there was misutilisation of bank funds in several areas of the country's under IRDP as per sample studies made by the R.B.I. and NABARD;

(b) whether necessary changes in the modalities of implementing the IRDP are being made to make it more broadbased and result oriented; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and whether these will be made effective during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The Governor, RBI, referred to sample studies of RBI and NABARD which indicated some deficiencies like defective identification of beneficiaries, bottlenecks relating to availability raw material and marketing difficulties etc., thus leading to misutilisaion of funds in several cases. He emphasised that while these findings could not be taken as representative of the situation in general, they need careful attention .

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Among the steps taken are the streamlining of identification of beneficiaries, revised criteria for allocation of funds and targets on the basis of selectivity related to the incidence of poverty, a cluster approach with emphasis on backward and forward linkages including identification of a nodal organisation at each district or setting up of a new district supply and marketing society, organisation of beneficiaries, training and, above all, developing an effective system of concurrent field level monitoring. A High Level Committee has also been set up to review the existing administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

New Research Centres of ICAR

1142. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of States where the Inidan Coencil of Agricultural Research proposes to set up research centres during 1985-86;

(b) what are the crops proposed to be covered;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up I.C.A.R. research centres on dry land farming in any State during 1985-86; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Council proposes to set up following regional centres during 1985-86 under the National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) under the control of respective Agricultural University:

State	No. of Research Centres
1. Bihar	1
2. Haryana	2
2. Himachal Pradesh	1
4. Madhya Pradesh	3
5. Maharashtra	3
6. Punjab	1
7. Rajasthan	3
8. Uttar Pradesh	2
9. West Bengal	2

These stations will undertake research on location-specific problems of production in major crops of the respective State/Zone.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a research centre exclusively for dryland farming during the current year. However the centres referred above will inter-alia deal with dryland farming also where ever applicable.

German cows for India

1143. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the officers of the National Diary Development Board went to Germany in connection with the proposed gift of 20 thousand Hostein-Freisian cows to India;

(b) if so, what are the details of these officers and the amount spent on them;

(c) whether they have taken charge of the cows; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and when these cows are likely to arrive in India and the States where these cows are proposed to be sent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The National Dairy Development BOARD (NDDB) deputed one of its Executive Directors to Europe in connection with the proposed gift of cows to India. The amount spent by the NDDB on his visit during April—May, 1985 was about Rs. 72,000.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The modalities of acceptance of the gift have not been finalised.

Newspaper readers

1144. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the State which has the maximum number of newspaper readers; and